

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR



The next National Committee meeting will be in Adelaide in 27 March 2009. Please contact your state National Committee representative, **Peter Robinson** (AGS Secretariat), **Graham Scholey** or myself if you would like any feedback or additional information in relation to the AGS National Committee meetings.

AGS membership currently stands at 1,246 including 40 new members since 1 December 2008 with an additional 20 student members. We welcome our new corporate member Anora Foundations Pty Ltd of Queensland. Activity to increase membership numbers and the level of engagement in AGS events remains a priority. Increasing student numbers is important if our efforts in this area are to be successful over the long term.

### EVENTS

As advised in AG December 2008 a new Engineering Geology course is being developed by **Phil Flentje**, **Fred Baynes**, **Mark Eggers** and **Alan Moon** on behalf of the Australian Geomechanics Society and will be held in Wollongong in September 2009. The new course is intended to complement the Geology for Engineers course that is run in Adelaide every two years. It is envisaged that students will be engineering geologists and geotechnical engineers involved in civil and mining projects who have a working knowledge of geology and at least 3 or 4 years experience in industry. Enquiries to **Phil Flentje** at [pflentje@uow.edu.au](mailto:pflentje@uow.edu.au).

Our distinguished speaker programme is being managed by Professor Barry Lehane of the University of Western Australia. There are currently proposals either on a National or State level for talks from Professor William Powrie (University of Southampton), Professor S. Sakurai (Japan) and Dr. Fred Baynes (Australia) (President IAEG).

AGS WEB PAGE ([www.australiangeomechanics.org](http://www.australiangeomechanics.org))

**Mark Jaksa** continues in the role of AGS webmaster and so please contact Mark if you have any questions or comments in relation to functionality, content, use and maintenance of our web page. The National Committee agreed in October 2008 to commission an external consultant to redesign the website. Stage 1 is due for testing at the end of Q1 2009. We currently have about 5,000 visits per month recorded, indicating the importance of this initiative to our **AGS** communications.

## **AGS AWARDS**

I am pleased to announce that the winner of the **Australian Geomechanics Award** for 2007 is awarded to Eric Hudson-Smith and Michael Grincer for their paper "Ground Conditions and building protection for the new Metrorail City project, Perth."

## **LANDSLIDE RISK MANAGEMENT**

Matters pertaining to the National Professional Engineering Register (NPER) Landslide Risk Management progressed during 2008 with a call for volunteers for "*NPER LRM Assessment and Interview Panels*" published in AG in December 2007. Thanks to those who have put their names forward. The National Committee formed a sub committee which reported to the last National Committee meeting. The process of reviewing submissions and coordination's with NERB to facilitate the nomination of Panel members is still in progress. We expect this to be resolved fairly soon in 2009.

The AGS Landslide Risk Sub-Committee report that they were successful with a submission to the National Disaster Mitigation Programme for funding to run workshops Australia wide on Landslide Risk Management.

## **ISSMGE, ISRM AND IAEG NEWS**

**Fred Baynes** continues to be active as international President of IAEG.

**Alan Moon** is our Australasian Vice President (VP) for IAEG. Additional IAEG details can be obtained from **Peter Robinson** or **Alan Moon** if required.

The 17<sup>th</sup> **International Conference** of ISSMGE will be held in Alexandria Egypt from 5-9 October 2009. **Professor John Carter** our Australasian VP for ISSMGE has reviewed Abstracts and 23 papers have been proposed from Australia. News Bulletin for ISSMGE is available at <http://www.issmge.org/home/page.asp?sid=296&mid=2&ld=473>

John steps down from this role at the Alexandria Conference to be succeeded by Professor Mike Davies of Auckland University.

**Tony Meyers** of Rocktest is the ISRM VP for the period 2007 to 2011. John St George acts as NZGS liaison contact for ISRM issues.

Tony has continued to be active in representing AGS with ISRM and AusIMM activity including communications in relation to the previously reported plans by AusIMM to create a Geoscience Society. Additional details of ISRM activity are available from the web page [www.isrm.net](http://www.isrm.net). AGS members in ISRM are encouraged to obtain a password to gain full access to the information available from the member's zone of the web page. Nominations are currently being sought from the role of President of ISRM and input has been sought from the membership. Tony is to be congratulated on his stewardship of this issue.

## **SECRETARIAT AND FINANCIAL ISSUES**

**Peter Robinson** continues his effective secretariat role and our accounting, auditing and reporting continue to be up to date and transparent.

The AGS is currently in a healthy financial position which will benefit members by allowing us to find new initiatives including, as discussed previously, the Engineering Geology Course, Web Site development, Distinguished Speakers Program and the 11<sup>th</sup> ANZ Conference in 2011.

Peter has recently made significant progress with our membership records and contact details. Please make sure that you let Engineers Australia and the AGS Secretariat know if you change your address or contact details so that we can keep the membership database up to date.

We have advised Engineers Australia that there will be no increase in AGS membership fees for 2009/2010 financial year. At the last National Committee Meeting we also agreed that all full time students will receive a free membership.

Peter has also made progress in relation to administration of individual AGS membership of the international societies. Please contact **Peter Robinson** if you have any questions or concerns in relation to the status of your membership of the international societies.

**Patrick MacGregor** and **Sara Lanesman** continue with their excellent work on the editorial, production and management of advertising with AG and deserve our collective congratulations and thanks for their efforts and the success and quality of *Australian Geomechanics*.

Please continue to actively engage with and support AGS as the success and growth of our society is closely connected to the success and growth of our profession.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any issues relating to AGS that you want to discuss with me.

**Neil D Benson** (*nbenson@golder.com.au*)

AGS National Chair

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